World Alliance News Letter

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1946: Prospect

A war-weary world took heart again when the results of the Moscow Conference were announced a fortnight ago. Not since V-E and V-J Day has there been such a hopeful augury. The sacrifices of life and treasure in these tragic years have not been in vain. World War III is not inevitable, and to the building of the peace we can now give ourselves with new determination and fresh courage.

This then is the prospect for 1946, a year destined to be filled with both hope and despair, good and ill. But the future bodes well for mankind if we move steadily along the paths we have thus far chosen in 1945 toward the goal of world order. We have, to be sure, made only a beginning; but it is a brave beginning, offering us a real opportunity to achieve our chosen objective of security and justice for all the nations, firmly knit in a structure of the United Nations Organization.

It has been suggested that we choose a set of resolutions for the year ahead. In response to that request we suggest these for the coming twelvemonth:

We of the Church Peace Union and World Alliance hereby resolve that in 1946 we will:

Hail every effort to strengthen the United Nations Organization and thus help to create the collective security needed to prevent war;

Support the United Nations Organization's agencies set up to deal with the specialized problems of labor and management, education, science and culture, relief and rehabilitation, aviation, etc.;

Fulfill our responsibility in this new world organization and, as host nation, accord it warm hospitality;

Recognize that at times it may be necessary to refer seemingly insoluble problems to a Big Three or Big Five tribunal, but encourage the more democratic procedure of resolving the issues within the framework of the United Nations Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council;

Encourage all efforts to control atomic energy by international action through the United Nations Organization, so that the world may be freed from the fear of an atomic war, and at the same time nuclear research may be encouraged to benefit mankind.

Urge the speedy creation of the Economic and Social Council and recommend as a leading item on the agenda the appointment of a Commission on Human Rights to formulate an International Bill of Rights;

Uphold the rights of minorities, both racial and religious, in all corners of the earth, be those minorities Negroes or Japanese-Americans in our own land or Jews in Europe and the Middle East;

Advocate the formation of a Trusteeship Commission to oversee the administration of colonial areas and strategic bases, thus laying the foundations for ultimate self-government and independence;

Continue to uphold the program of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and encourage all private relief agencies;

Remain sensitive to the needs of others and contribute food and clothing to victors and vanquished;

Develop an understanding of the aspirations of peoples all over the world and an appreciation of rising nationalism whether in India or Java, in China or Korea;

Beware of the poisons of fascism everywhere;

Guard against the self-righteousness and arrogance of victory and remind ourselves that the heady wines of victory may be as poisonous as the bitter dregs of defeat;

Resist all efforts to shatter the unity of the United Nations and combat the fascist technique of "divide and conquer";

Refrain from carping criticism of our allies;

Challenge anti-Russian and anti-British propaganda whether in the higher echelons of governments or in the neo-fascist press;

Respond with complete commitment to the imperatives of Judaism and Christianity and affirm anew the truth that mankind is one, a family of brothers beneath the Fatherhood of God, and one body wherein each race, creed and nationality joins to make us "members one of another."

But of what value are resolutions? They are worthless unless fulfilled in each instance by specific action.

We say we want to support our government in its international relations. But how? One way is to make our voices heard. Only through direct communication with our Congressmen and with our representatives to the UNO can we make articulate the will of the people.

We contend that we want a well informed citizenry so that intelligent political action may be the next step. How can that be achieved? One method is that of forming study groups and Win-the-Peace Committees in our churches and synagogues; and to coordinate these efforts with all other internationally-minded groups.

We are now entering the "postwar years," formerly spoken of with such glib familiarity and yet with such vague yearnings. The time formerly spent by millions of men and women on war work is now available for directed study and concerted action. The year 1946 can become the first in a series of significant years spent in the building of a world freed of war and want. We have "just begun to fight" for the just and lasting peace.

Items of Interest

Message from Denmark

The Rev. G. Sparring-Petersen, Secretary of the World Alliance in Denmark, has written these lines from Copenhagen to tell us of his hopes for the World Alliance in these coming months:

> Whereas mankind after the war of 1914-18 was motivated by optimism in view of the peace and a future which was thought to have been made "safe for democracy," a realistic pessimism at present prevails among the peoples and their statesmen.
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> Certain prospects of an almost apocalyptic character are looming before this war-tortured generation. May the earnest and most impressive warnings and appeals during these months sent out by President Truman and Mr. Attlee stir the peoples and all responsible leaders to realize the seriousness of the present crisis!
>
> Bitter as is the hate after all these devastations, barbarism and cruelties, which have taken place during the war, the evacuation of millions of Germans from one end of the old Germany to another may stir up a latent and increasing hate which will some time prove fatal. At present, one cannot, however, help feeling dismayed in thinking of the starving, dying German children. May help be given to these millions, and may the new year see the World Alliance develop anew into an active instrument for promoting international friendship, zealously mobilizing for peace and backing up the United Nations Organization and its noble aims.
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> During these years a new interest in politics has appeared in wide Christian circles, which did not hitherto feel any responsibility for political action. It is to be hoped that this new interest, which can be observed in several European countries, will result in a far more wholehearted and widespread spiritual and material support of the whole ecumenical movement and Christian peace work.
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> 1946 will call for the prayers and the work of faithful Christian people more than ever!

Greetings from England

Mr. Wickham Steed, former editor of the London *Times* and long-time friend of the World Alliance, has sent us this message for the New Year:

> One era of human history closed on August 5, 1945, with the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. What of the churches in the new era which opened on August 6? If "man's material discoveries have outpaced his moral progress," is not this loss of alignment a rebuke to them? Have they not left undone many things they ought to have done? In the new era they should bestir themselves, set about the urgent business of making up man's moral leeway, of bringing his spiritual forces abreast of his material discoveries.
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> Since August 6, 1945, as never before, men have been "as gods knowing good and evil". This knowledge offers them unexampled openings for redemption from terrestrial woe. The task of the churches is surely so to guide them that these openings may be seized, these opportunities converted into abiding achievement.
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> As I send the churches my greetings through the World Alliance I would bid them gird up their loins, fight the good fight and finish this course lest, in the closing words of the Old Testament, He who made men and atoms "smite the earth with a curse."

Catholic and Protestant Efforts To Preserve Peace

The Post-War World Committee of the Catholic Association For International Peace and the Commission For a Just and Durable Peace of the Federal Council of Churches have issued statements discussing the peace and its moral undergirdings.

The Catholic statement called for important revisions in the United Nations Charter to meet changed conditions brought on by the unleashing of atomic energy and asked for "a revolution in morals and spirit." The San Francisco Charter was called inadequate and imperfect, but the Committee insisted on quick operation of the Charter so that it may be amended to meet the challenge of atomic power.

The Protestant group, in turn, outlined four fronts for peace: the Inner Front, the Church Front, the Peace Treaty Front, and the United Nations Front; and listed five principles to be applied on the Peace Treaty Front, referring specifically to the problems of territorial changes, colonial peoples, armaments, reparations, and human rights.

35th Anniversary of Carnegie Endowment

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has just celebrated its 35th anniversary. The Church Peace Union and World Alliance join with countless organizations and individuals throughout the world in extending congratulations. Greetings were sent from the prime ministers and leading executives of many countries. President Harry S. Truman joined with former Secretaries of State Cordell Hull and Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. in sending a message of congratulations and said:

> The people of the United States, who are now wholeheartedly committed to international cooperation for the building of a better and more peaceful world, owe a debt of gratitude to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. For thirty-five years, even while the two greatest wars of history were raging, your organization has patiently studied the underlying causes of international conflict and recommended means for their removal. We can be proud that it was an American who established this endowment for peace. We must all, with unflagging efforts, carry forward the high purpose for which the Endowment stands.

Czechoslovakia: Between East and West

Shortly before Christmas, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Dexter sent this article after a visit to Czechoslovakia:

It was almost exactly seven years ago—Thanksgiving Day, 1938—that we last saw Prague. The poison of Munich then filled the air; and, in place of thankfulness, there was bitterness and a deep sense of foreboding. Since that day the worst anticipations have been more than realized.

As our plane circled the airport on December 5th we thought of the past seven years and what they had done to Czechoslovakia and to our friends there. Many, including Professor F. Zilka, the devoted president of the Czech Alliance, and Patriarch Prochazka, its beloved vice-president, had died during the occupation, the latter while under house-arrest. Others had been put to death in concentration camps. Still others, among them many of our closest friends, had returned after spending years in the unspeakable misery of Dachau and Buchenwald. Some — after odysseys lasting weeks, months and often years—had escaped to join the armies of the Allies or to serve their government-in-exile.

During seven long years the entire country had been robbed and the people treated like slaves. The systematic plans to destroy Czechoslovakian culture and to reduce the Czechs to serfdom are just now being made clear in the Nuremburg trials.

Searching Questions

We knew that we should find joy due to liberation as well as a renewed confidence in the government which, in spite of everything, had carried on during the Years of Exile. But was the country really free, or was it a Russian puppet state? Had the people, embittered by their betrayal at Munich, lost faith in the West and turned their hopes eastward? Had the churches, perhaps, become fatalistic and otherworldly?

It took only a few moments actually on the soil of Bohemia for us to be reassured. We have all been learning that in this interdependent world there is no such thing as freedom in the old absolute sense; but subject to this modification, it seems true to say that Czechoslovakia is a free democracy again. Moreover, our friends—even those who had suffered most—not only greeted us with their oldtime affection, but showed a genuine interest in our mission. The religious leaders had not grown indifferent or fatalistic. We found everywhere a strong determination that the land of Hus and Masaryk should play a worthy part in rebuilding the structure of peace. The question eagerly put to us was: "What can we do *now*?"

Czechoslovakia occupies a key position in world politics. It is true that the major responsibility for world peace must rest on the great nations, but the part which the other nations must play should not be overlooked. Situated in the center of Europe, Czechoslovakia is sensitive to political and economic currents from both East and West. Her cultural and spiritual history reinforce the effects of geography.

The Czechs and Slovacs are Slavic in race, language, and tradition; and they have always had close ties with their eastern neighbors. The role of Russia in freeing them, and the Soviet Republic's increased importance in world affairs, have made these ties closer then ever.

At the same time, the people of Czechoslovakia have been part of western European culture for a thousand years. They were converted to Christianity from Rome and have always faced to the West. Their great prophet, Jan Hus, received his early inspiration from the English Wycliffe. In spite of bitter persecution under Austro-Hungarian domination, they never lost their belief in the religious and political democracy which Hus preached. Masaryk, who owed much to Hus, was deeply influenced also by America, and indeed the constitution of the Czechoslovak Republic is modeled on that of the United States. To a unique degree, therefore, the Czechoslovaks understand and appreciate both Russia and the Anglo-Saxon democracies.

Need for Russo-American Understanding Seen

There is no blinking the fact that an understanding between Russia and the democracies of the West—particularly America and Britain—is essential if we are to have a permanent peace. No country can help so much in creating that understanding as Czechoslovakia. President Eduard Benes and Jan Masaryk clearly see this.

Czechoslovakia has many other, perhaps immediately more pressing tasks. She must feed her hungry people, revive her economic and political life, and attempt a settlement of the dangerous and difficult problem of minorities, above all the German minority. We can testify from personal observation to the serious way in which the Czechs are trying to combine humane conduct with the safety of their state.

But the people of the Republic eagerly accept their particular obligation as loyal members of the family of nations. To perform it she needs our cooperation. Organizations like the World Alliance and the United Nations Association are needed everywhere; but nowhere more than here. Especially can they help the Czechoslovaks to catch up on their knowledge of other countries, from which during German occupation they were cut off, and to counteract the effects of German propaganda, some of which inevitably seeped in. We found eager determination to build or rebuild both Alliance and United Nations Organization. Czechoslovak branches will go far to strengthen the international work of these organizations.

Journey to Japan

Dr. Walter Van Kirk describes his recent trip to the Far East:

The Protestant church deputation to Japan has just completed a 22,000 mile trip by air, to and from Tokyo. The deputation included Dr. Douglas Horton, Bishop James C. Baker, Dr. Luman J. Shafer and myself. During our stay of more than three weeks in Japan, we talked with the Christian leaders of that country, with General MacArthur and the top ranking members of his staff, with several members of the Japanese cabinet and with the Emperor.

Future Role of Christianity

Japan appears to be wide open for the spread of Christianity. Both Shintoism and Buddhism have been badly shaken by the war. Neither of these religions is believed to possess the dynamic qualities of spiritual reformation required for the reconstruction of Japan.

The Emperor of Japan manifested to us a genuine interest in the possible service to be rendered by the Christian churches in the remaking of that country.

Our deputation had a conference with Prince Higashikuni. Kagawa, the world renowned Christian leader, was present for this interview. It was Higashikuni who had invited Kawaga to enter the government as an adviser on the moral and spiritual welfare of the Japanese people. The Prince told us that, in his opinion, the future of Japan was intertwined with the spread of Christianity throughout the Orient.

We had a luncheon conference with the Minister of Education, Mayeda. Mayeda is himself a Christian. He is determined to remove from the educational system of Japan every obstacle formerly placed in the way of Christian education by the militarists.

Gratitude for Defeat

Our deputation became convinced that the Japanese Christians are genuinely grateful that Japan lost the war. "If we had won the war," they said, "there would have been no living with the military. They would have strutted and rattled their sabres as never before. But now that the military leaders are in disrepute and are being stripped of their power and influence, there is hope that Japan may fit herself for an honorable place in the family of nations."

I know how difficult it will be to believe all this. But I want to tell you in all sincerity that not only among the Christians of Japan, but in wider circles, the American Army is looked upon not so much as an Army of Occupation, but as an Army of Deliverance.

The G.I.'s in Japan don't like to be told by Americans over here that they are parties to a soft peace. As General MacArthur told us at a luncheon conference in the American Embassy, our soldiers had done as much physical damage to Japan as it was possible for them to do and that what remained now, was to give the Japanese their freedom. The way to give the Japanese their freedom, as a sergeant in Tokyo said, is not to bash in their heads with the butt end of guns nor to grind their faces in the rubble of their destroyed cities, but to help them stand on their own feet. General MacArthur said to us: "These soldiers have fought bloody battles all the way up the Pacific, from New Guinea through the Solomon and Marshal Islands, at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and it riles them no end to be told by Americans who have never seen the smoke of battle, that they are soft."

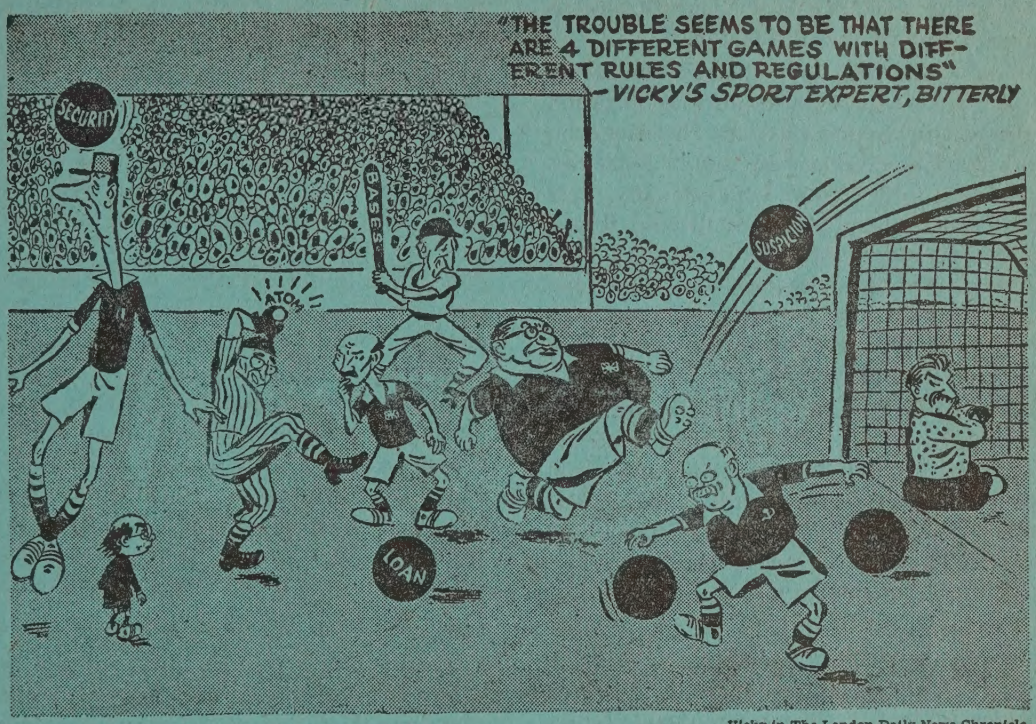
Between Two Worlds

There are several different Japans—there is the old Japan with the ousted military and repudiated bureaucrats hoping that by some strange turn of fate they'll have a chance to come back some day. Then there is a new Japan struggling to be born. This is the Japan with which the Christians of that country are identified. This new Japan can't thrive on hatred. This new Japan knows that it was the old Japan that lost the war. The forward looking Japanese know that justice demands that their nation pay for the cruelty and folly of their military leaders. They're prepared to pay the price. Every day throughout the long winter ahead they'll be paying the price of war. The price will be cold and hunger and the hardest kind of labor.

This new Japan does not want a soft peace. This new Japan wants a just peace and an opportunity to build a democratic society forever emancipated from the tyranny and dictatorship of the Japanese military. It is for the sake of this new Japan that the Christians of that country are extending their hands to us and to the Christians of every land.

Our visit to Japan was widely hailed by the Japanese press as an event of national importance. The Nippon *Times* in a two column editorial declared: "The fact that the Christian churches of America have taken such solicitous concern in the rehabilitation of defeated Japan as to send this deputation at this early date betokens the earnestness and depth of the good will of the Christian elements in America toward the Japanese people" This prominent Japanese newspaper concluded its editorial with these words: "The invigoration of the Japanese Christian community through contact with such instrumentalities as the present visiting deputation is in the national interest. All progressive-minded Japanese, Christian or non-Christian or anti-Christian, should therefore welcome the American ecclesiastical visitors as valuable contributors to the advancement of Japan to a rightful place in an enlightened and peaceful world."

FOCUS > on the Churches' Work for World Order



Vicky in The London Daily News Chronicle

"What's the Game?"

The Moscow meeting of Molotov, Bevin, and Byrnes seems to have been successful, especially when contrasted to the stalemate of the Foreign Ministers Conference in London last autumn. The announcement of the Three Power Agreement was made, appropriately enough, at Christmas time and gave hope and courage to a world chilled by uncertainty and discouragement during these latter months. Now the nations can begin to play the game of achieving understanding among each other. They can start to develop a single set of rules. But only too easily can they forget that the game is not a scramble for colonies and imperial markets, for spheres of influence and puppet regimes. When each nation chooses its own game and capriciously picks new handy sets of rules, we have something akin to a riotous playground. The game the nations must play today is the quest for collective security against war. The UNO is our effort to decide upon both game and rules with a single purpose in mind: a peace based on justice and equality.

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"We must take the charter as the best instrument immediately available, improve and strengthen it where and when we can, but work it with all our will, hoping that while at best it will achieve the purpose for which it was devised, at the least it may bring the peoples of the world to a point from which, in the light of experience gained, they can move a stage farther forward."

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The Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount gives the rules for the game: the good neighbor policy, emphasis upon the dignity of the human being, the ideal of human brotherhood, belief in the equality of all mankind, the concept of One World, the sacredness of the given word, and the conviction that the world belongs to all, not to a chosen few. Church school classes and young people groups could adopt a new curriculum during this winter quarter; they can find their source material for a study of world order in the Bible. Moses and Isaiah, Jesus and Paul taught the rules long ago. And the rules still hold good. The world's need for order and unity, for justice and security finds an answer in the priceless heritage of the Judaeo-Christian faith.

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"We must work with all our might for a world order under the rule of law. This seems to be our only hope. Humanity is one. We must act in the belief that no nation and no individual liveth to himself alone, and that all are members one of another."

On the Political Front

Assembly Sessions in London

The most important event of the new year will be the meeting of the Assembly of the United Nations Organization on January 10th in London.

Just six months after the San Francisco Conference the new organization will begin to put into operation the machinery set up in the Charter. The American delegation, headed by Secretary Byrnes, includes Mr. Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Senator Tom Connally, Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt as our representatives. Mr. Stettinius will be the permanent member of our delegation, and as such has been given full ambassadorial powers by Congress, with authority to commit the United States Government without further vote of Congress.

The first task of the Assembly will be to create the main agencies provided for in the Charter. These are the Security Council, Council on Economic and Social Welfare, International Court of Justice, and Trusteeship Council. In addition, the permanent officers will have to be elected and the Secretariat chosen.

The Preparatory Commission has done an excellent job in making arrangements for the meeting. It considered at length the questions relating to the headquarters for the United Nations Organization. Some of the countries, led by Great Britain, wanted to center the world organization in Geneva. Others, opposed Geneva but wanted it elsewhere on the continent of Europe. The majority, however, voted that the site should be in the United States. But then came the question as to which one of some forty cities offering a site should be selected. Finally, without committing the Assembly to any one city, it was agreed that the new organization should be located somewhere in the Eastern part of the country. At the present writing, judging from various grapevine rumors, it seems that the choice has narrowed down to Boston and New York. The Assembly itself will have to vote on this matter and its vote will be final.

Meeting of the Big Three in Moscow

The failure of the meeting of the Big Three powers in London two months ago spelled complete disaster to many earnest people in our country, but now we look forward with hope to the results of the present Moscow Conference. The Foreign Ministers of the United States, the Soviet Union and Great Britain announced on December 27th that they had reached a wide area of agreement about the machinery to control the atomic bomb; how to supervise Japan, Korea, Rumania and Bulgaria; when to withdraw Russian and American troops from China; and how to draft peace treaties with defeated European nations.

UNRRA

"Surely the peoples of liberated Europe have the right at least to survival through this relentless winter. Today they have no assurance of this survival. If millions of them are not to perish in the coming months from hunger, disease or exposure, they must get assistance immediately. Hungry men are desperate men, especially when their children are also hungry." These words from the Director General, Mr. Herbert Lehman, should strike a responsive chord in all men's hearts. In part this appeal is being met, but other interests are blinding us to the real suffering still being endured by those who have been ravaged by the war. Our Government has recently voted its final installment on its first appropriation of one billion, three hundred fifty million dollars, which was her share. It has also voted an additional appropriation of an equal amount which will make in all 2,700 million dollars. The majority of the thirty-one nations which agreed to furnish the operating funds for UNRRA have paid in their contributions. Up to a few days ago we were the chief delinquent. Canada had long ago paid her share.

Conference on Worldwide Educational Affairs.

A conference on international education and cultural affairs was held in London in November. Representatives from thirty-five countries were present at the meeting They agreed to establish an International Bureau to carry out the purposes of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) authorized in the San Francisco Charter. The office will be located in Paris. It will have a wide range of responsibilities, taking over much of the work that was done in this field by the League of Nations. It will have more authority and wider backing than did the Commission on Intellectual Cooperation set up by the League of Nations twenty-five years ago. Its objectives are so closely woven into the interests of religion and the work of the churches that it should receive warm-hearted support.

Shall We Have an International Peace Day?

The proposal has been made that the Assembly of the UNO vote an international holiday to be known as *International Peace Day*. No specific day or date has been agreed upon, but many suggestions are being made. In order that continuity may be carried out, especially in the United States, it would seem desirable to change November 11th from Armistice Day to Peace Day. An armistice we have had far too long. Now we should change our thinking by celebrating peace instead of an armistice, for the latter is simply a respite between two wars. If you agree with this proposal of an International Peace Day, write to Committee for Peace Day in the United Nations, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

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The purpose of the Church Peace Union and World Alliance is to promote international friendship and peace, and to mobilize into a conscious force for international goodwill all men and women who share in the great hope of a world in which war will have been abolished. The World Alliance News Letter *is published every month, except July and August, by the Church Peace Union and the American Council of the World Alliance. The* News Letter *is sent to all members of the World Alliance for International Friendship Through the Churches. Individual membership $1.00 a year. Quantity rates for churches and schools.*

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Community Activities

Temple Emanu-El Lecture Series

Congregation Emanu-El in the city of New York inaugurated a lecture series last year to commemorate its 100th anniversary. The series was so successful that it was decided to continue the lecture series for 1945-46, with the aim of providing "within the atmosphere of the synagogue a public forum for the consideration of the various problems which confront mankind." Preceded by a brief religious service the lectures in November were given by Professor Hans Kohn of Smith College on *The Faith of a Liberal;* Professor James T. Shotwell of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on *The United Nations in the Atomic Age;* the Hon. Charles H. Tuttle of the New York Bar on *Needed: An International Conscience;* and Professor Eduard C. Lindeman of the New York School of Social Work on *What Hope for the Germany of Tomorrow?* The lecturers during December were Professor Isaac L. Kandel of Columbia University on *Internationalism Begins at Home;* Miss Dorothy Norman of the N. Y. *Post* on *Personal Responsibility and Democracy;* Dr. Abram Leon Sachar of B'nai B'rith Hillel on *Our Rendezvous with Destiny;* and Professor Salo W. Baron of Columbia University on *Power Politics and the Jew.*

The lecturers scheduled for the rest of the season include Professor Irwin Edman, Dr. Harry D. Gideonse, Mr. Basil O'Connor, Professor Francis E. McMahon, and Senator Joseph H. Ball.

Catholics and Human Rights

The Committee of Catholics for Human Rights recently bestowed the first Msgr. John A. Ryan Awards to Auxiliary Bishop Bernard J. Sheil of Chicago and Mr. Philip Murray, President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. They were honored as the Catholic clergyman and the Catholic layman who had done most for interracial amity and human rights. Bishop Sheil was presented as "an eloquent and unfaltering voice for human brotherhood," and Mr. Murray was cited as a leader in the struggle for equal opportunity for human rights.

Bishop Sheil, in responding, used powerful language in denouncing racial hatred: "it is a bitter thing to realize that after 1900 years of Christianity, we find Christian espousing racism and actively fostering this most complete negation of Christian virtues." He said he was "weary and disconsolate at the sight of alleged Christians who nullify every day of their lives the basic ingredient of Christianity—love."

Mr. Murray declared that problems of wages and of employment would be easily solved "if we could obtain genuine general agreement to approach them on a moral plane in terms of human rights." The gathering was also notable for addresses by Father George B. Ford and Mr. Robert Sherwood. The Society also gave citations to the nearest of kin of the four chaplains of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths who went down together on the S.S. *Dorchester* in January of 1943.

Conference on United Nations Assembly

On Friday, December 14, the American Association for the United Nations held an all-day conference in Town Hall, New York City. The subjects to be taken up at the first General Assembly were discussed by leaders in those fields. More than twenty-five national and local organizations joined in sponsoring these sessions at which the following topics were discussed: *The Role of the General Assembly, Disarmament and the Elimination of War, Control of Atomic Energy, Location of UNO Headquarters, Economic and Social Progress, Human Rights,* and *Freedom of Communications.* Among those leading the discussions were Mr. John Foster Dulles, Prof. James T. Shotwell, Mr. Clark M. Eichelberger, Dr. Harold C. Urey, Mr. Arthur Sweetser, Mr. Thomas J. Watson, Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, Prof. Philip C. Jessup, and Mr. David Sarnoff. Dean Virginia C. Gildersleeve and Mr. Harold E. Stassen were the main speakers at the dinner-session of the conference, which took place at the Hotel Astor.

Suggested Reading, Programs, and Films

A Catholic Looks at the World by Francis E. McMahon. Vanguard Press. New York. $2.75.

A progressive Roman Catholic presents his credo. In simple forthright fashion the distinguished professor of philosophy at the University of Chicago attacks the pretensions of the modern era. Dr. McMahon indicts the failure not of Christianity but of Christians. The case against nationalism and its "supreme form, totalitarianism" is outlined. Professor McMahon's criticisms spare none, neither secular radicals, nor evangelic Protestants, not even his co-religionists. He comments caustically, though unjustly, on Justice Holmes and Harold Laski. A disturbing, thought evoking book.

A Partisan Guide to the Jewish Problem by Milton Steinberg. The Bobbs Merrill Co. Indianapolis. $3.00.

The brilliant young rabbi of New York's Park Avenue Synagogue gives invaluable aid to both Jew and non-Jew in their quest for an understanding of Jewry and Judaism. Dr. Steinberg skillfully untangles the skein of Jewish life, past and present, and weaves a tapestry for the future. With erudition and perception he discusses in simple, forthright language the problems of status, of self-acceptance, of the Tradition, and of the Homeland. Of special value for study groups on interfaith problems and comparative religion.

One Nation by Wallace Stegner and the Editors of *Look*. Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston. $3.75.

"To bring again to the attention of all far-sighted Americans the sacred dignity of the human being regardless of class or race or place of birth," the authors present an album of 300 graphic pictures accompanied by an illuminating text. An excellent survey of racial and religious stresses in wartime America. Depicts clearly and factually discrimination against minority groups and the persecutions they suffer. Splendid for study groups.

Europe in Revolution by John Scott. Houghton Mifflin. Boston, Mass. $3.00.

Before going to Berlin to head the *Time-Life* Bureau, John Scott sent this manuscript from Stockholm to describe his observations at his listening post during 18 months in Sweden, Finland and England. In a well written book, studded with anecdotes and facts, Scott sets forth his theory that fascism and the war hastened revolution in Europe by their destruction of the property system. Scott foresees Russia as the major factor in coming decades and holds that Russo-American understanding and collaboration are the only bases for the reconstruction of Europe.

United Nations Study Kit, No. 2. United Nations Information Office, 610 Fifth Avenue, New York 20, N. Y. Price 60 cents.

Contains six pamphlets on the United Nations and associated agencies, among which are the stories of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Civil Aviation Conference, the Monetary and Financial Conference, and U.N.N.R.A. Important for leaders and students.

Christian Action on Four Fronts for Peace. The Commission on a Just and Durable Peace, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. Single copies 3c, 100 copies $2.40 postpaid.

Statement adopted by the Commission on a Just and Durable Peace, November 9, 1945; approved by the Executive Committee of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America on November 20, 1945, and commended to the Churches for study and action.

Let's Do Better by Leaf Munro. J. B. Lippincott. Philadelphia, Pa. $1.50.

It has been said: "If you seek peace you must write it first in the hearts of children." Major Munro must have had this thought in mind when he wrote this charming book for children, ages 5 and up. Through his inimitable line drawings and simple, child-like text he traces the growth of fear, the folly of fighting as a way of settling disputes, the stupidity of fear, the benefits of cooperation, the waste of selfish individualism, and finally the responsibility of everyone for making the world a better place. Few children and grown-ups can resist this book.

You and the United Nations. Program Material for Young People. Published by the Education Department, American Association for the United Nations, Inc., New York 21. Fifteen cents.

Program material on songs, games, food, etc., of all the nations. Splendid suggestions for children's books, educational films, discussion outlines and quiz games. Valuable for community activities.

Greater Victory. United Specialists production edited by Sherman Price and distributed by Filmedia Corp., 12 East 44th Street, New York 17. A stirring two reel film on 16 mm. sound track which takes 22 minutes to show. To buy: $50.00, but available for rental at $3.00 per day. Deals dramatically with a story of two escaped Nazi prisoners of war who seek to arouse animosity in a community in which they find temporary refuge. Excellent for young people's groups and adult study circles. Another film based on the best seller, **One God,** is now in preparation. For further information write to the distributor, Filmedia Corp., or to the producer, United Specialists, Inc., 159 East 35th Street, New York 16.

BOOKS RECEIVED

My Twenty-five Years in China by John B. Powell. Macmillan.
Russia and the Western World by Max Laserson. Macmillan.
Nationalism and After by Edward Hallett Carr. Macmillan.
The Dragon and the Eagle by Delia Goetz. Vanguard Press.
Studio: Europe by John Groth. Vanguard Press.
One World in the Making by Ralph Barton Perry. A. A. Wyn.
Latin American Front by Joseph F. Privitera. Bruce Pub. Co.
This Must Not Happen Again by Clark Kinnaird. Howell, Soskin.
The Balance of Tomorrow by Robert Strausz-Hupe. Putnam's.
Toward a Democratic New Order by David Bryn-Jones. U. of Minn. Press.
Tomorrow's Trade by Stuart Chase. Twentieth Century Fund.
Italy and the Coming World by Don Luigi Sturzo. Roy.